Amdt. dated June 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 1, 2005

Serial No. 09/613,083
Docket No. STL920000055
Firm No. 0054.0038

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On September 20, 2004, Applicants filed an IDS resubmitting copies of the references the Examiner said were missing in the previous IDS submission. Applicants note that a copy of the return postcard submitted with the IDS shows that 7 references were provided with the IDS, which corresponds to the seven non-patent references. This return postcard, stamped as received by the Patent Office, evidences that the references were in fact received by the Patent Office. A copy of the stamped postcard is submitted with this response.

According to the Manual of Patent Examination and Procedure (MPEP) Sec. 503, "a postcard receipt which itemizes and properly identifies the items which are being filed serves as prima facie evidence of receipt in the USPTO of all the items listed thereon on the date stamped thereon by the USPTO." Here the attached postcard stamped by the USPTO is evidence that the seven references were received in the USPTO.

Notwithstanding, Applicants request the Examiner to contact him if he cannot locate the provided references.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 as obvious over the "Description of the Related Art" of the Application ("Related Art") in view of Edberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,381).

Claims 1, 9, and 17 concern creating a string of Unicode characters stored in a memory of a computer, and require: creating a constant whose data type is a Unicode data type; associating a string of non-Unicode characters with the constant which is stored in the memory of the computer; retrieving a specification of a code page in which the non-Unicode character string is encoded; translating the non-Unicode character string associated with the constant into a Unicode character string responsive to the specification of the code page; and storing the Unicode character string in the constant stored in the memory of the computer.

The Examiner cited pg. 5, lines 10-28 of the Related Art as teaching the claim requirement of associating a string of non-Unicode characters with a constant whose data type is Unicode, which is stored in the memory of the computer. (Office Action, pg. 4) Applicants traverse.

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The cited pg. 5 mentions different representations of a character string in different character formats and shows how after Unicode translation, the same characters are represented by twelve bytes. Nowhere does this cited pg. 5 anywhere disclose creating a constant having a Unicode type and then associating a string of non-Unicode characters with the constant. Instead, the cited pg. 5 discusses converting a character from one format, such as hexadecimal, to Unicode.

Further, the Examiner has not cited any art that teaches or suggests the claim requirement of translating the non-Unicode character string associated with the constant into a Unicode character string responsive to the specification of the code page. The Examiner cited col. 3, lines 57-61 and col. 4, lines 10-67 of Edberg.

The cited col. 3 mentions dividing a source string in a first character encoding into text elements, looking-up in a mapping table a conversion code associated with a second character encoding for each text element, and combining the conversion codes of the text elements to form the target string. Nowhere does this cited col. 3 anywhere teach or suggest translating a non-Unicode character string associated with a constant having a Unicode data type into a Unicode character string. Instead, the cited col. 3 mentions determining a conversion code for text elements from a mapping table.

The cited col. 4 also mentions looking up target encodings in a mapping table for source target encodings. The code conversion system may include a fallback handler and a scanner table, such that the fallback handler provides codes when the lookup handler is unable to provide a code for one or more text elements, where the fallback handler codes are not exactly equivalent to the source text elements, but similar in appearance.

The cited col. 4 further discussing scanning an input character having a character encoding, and each character of the input character string having a character class. The scanning system determines whether the input character of the input character string should be included within a current text element or whether the current text element should end a new text element begun.

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Although the cited col. 4 discusses converting a source string to a conversion code by looking up conversion codes in a table or mapping, nowhere does the cited col. 4 anywhere teach or suggest translating a non-Unicode character string associated with a constant having a Unicode data type into a Unicode character string.

There is no mention in the cited art of a constant having a Unicode data type and that is associated with a non-Unicode character that is translated into a Unicode character string.

Accordingly, claims 1, 9, and 17 are patentable over the cited art because the cited art does not teach or suggest all the claim requirements.

Claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-24 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from one of claims 1, 9, and 17. Moreover, the following dependent claims provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Claims 6, 14, and 22 depend from claims 5, 13, and 21 and further require that the scope is global, the global scope specifying that the translation applies to the entire computer program.

The Examiner cited col. 2, lines 1-67, col. 3, lines 57-61, and col. 4, lines 10-67 of Edberg as teaching these claim requirements. (Office Action, pg. 6) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 2 discusses conversion from Unicode characters to a specific language and the cited cols. 3-4 discuss a conversion process to convert a source string to a target string. Nowhere do the cited cols, 2, 3, and 4 anywhere teach or suggest a scope specifying a portion of a program to translate, where the scope indicates to translate the entire computer program. There is no mention in the cited art of a scope or other value indicating to translate non-Unicode character strings for the entire computer program.

Accordingly, claims 6, 14, and 22 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art because the additional requirements of these claims are not taught or suggested in the cited art.

Claims 7, 15, and 23 depend from claims 5, 13, and 21 and further require that the scope is local, the local scope specifying that the translation applies to the subsequent portion of the computer program.

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Applicants amended these claims to correct a grammatical mistake by adding the word "to".

The Examiner, without citing any art, found that it would obvious to provide a local scope specifying that the translation of Unicode applies to a portion of the computer program. Applicants traverse and submit that although the cited art discusses Unicode conversion, nowhere does the cited art anywhere teach or suggest a local scope specifying that conversion applies to a subsequent portion of the computer program. There is no mention in the cited art of specifying a scope that specifies the portion of the computer program for which translation is performed.

Accordingly, claims 7, 15, and 23 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art because the additional requirements of these claims are not taught or suggested in the cited art.

Claims 8, 16, and 24 depend from claims 5, 13, and 21 and further require that the scope is constant specific, the constant specific scope specifying that the translation applies only to a specific constant.

The Examiner cited pg. 5, lines 10-28 of the Related Art with respect to these claims. (Office Action, pg. 7) Applicants traverse.

The cited pg. 5 discusses converting a character string in one format, such as hexadecimal, to a Unicode format. Nowhere does the cited pg. 5 anywhere teach or suggest specifying a constant specific scope that specifies that a translation only applies to a specific constant. Instead, the cited pg. 5 discusses translation of a character string.

Accordingly, claims 8, 16, and 24 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art because the additional requirements of these claims are not taught or suggested in the cited art.

<div align="center">Conclusion</div>

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

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The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: June 1, 2005

By: _____
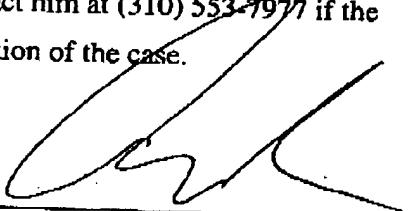
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Title: METHOD OF, SYSTEM FOR, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR CREATING AND CONVERTING TO UNICODE DATA FROM SINGLE BYTE CHARACTER SETS...

Client International Business Machines Corporation   0054.0038

Receipt is hereby acknowledged for the following received in the Patent & Trademark Office on the date stamped hereon:

☒ Transmittal Form PTO/SB/21
☒ Resubmission of Art Cited in Previously Filed IDS
☒ Copy of IDS and postcard filed on January 30, 2001 (4 pages)
☒ Form 1449/PTO
☒ 7 reference(s)
☒ Return Postcard